

REMARKS

Claims 13, 15, 17-23, 25-28, 30 and 31 are currently pending. Claims 13, 25 and 28 are amended. No new matter is presented. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants submit that claims 13, 15, 17-23, 25-28, 30 and 31 recite patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants request the favorable consideration and allowance of claims 13, 15, 17-23, 25-28, 30 and 31.

Claim 28 is objected to for containing informalities. Claim 28 is amended to more clearly recite the features of the claimed invention. In view of this amendment, Applicants request the withdrawal of the objection to claim 28.

Claims 13, 15, 17-21, 23, 25, 26, 28, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over admitted prior art (Figure 1) in view of Nagashima (US Patent No. 5,742,735) and Kaneda (US Patent No. 5,973,857). Claims 13 and 25 are amended to more clearly recite features that are neither taught nor suggested by the applied references. Based on these newly amended claims, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Independent claims 13 and 25 are amended to recite an arrangement having a control unit that is operable to control the first and second moving lenses so that the first and second lenses reach the desired reference point simultaneously in discrete individual steps of varying magnitude at a same time. Claims 13 and 25 are also amended to recite that that the first and second lenses ensure a sharp image at all time during the movement required to reach the desired reference point. It should be noted that the first and second moving lenses L1 and L2 are independently controlled by direct driving motors LA1 and LA2, respectively. Based on a mathematical controlling curve which defines the position of the two lenses at every zooming position, a control unit knows exactly how many steps are needed for each motor to obtain a particular zooming position. In addition, the control unit is operable to control the driving motors and the lenses without regard to the position of a specimen to be observed.

Nagashima is directed to a video-camera imaging-system lens barrel which includes a two-group type lens system a first lens group 2 and a second lens group 3, which are in focus in an imaging place for each magnification at fixed substance distances and are controlled such that they move along the zoom tracking curves which represents the paths of movement of the respective positions of the first lens group and the second lens group. Nagashima discloses the controlling of a two-group lens system, however, Nagashima requires that the subject distance does not vary and no out-of focus state is generated even during the zooming. (See Column 3, Lines 22-24).

Kaneda discloses a zoom lens in which a lens group is driven in response to an operation member provided on a body to which the zoom lens is attached. The system includes a rotary manual ring disposed on the lens barrel, and driving part is arranged to drive the lens group in accordance with a rotating state of the manual ring.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of the cited references fail to teach or suggest the feature of the first and second lenses reaching the desired reference point simultaneously in discrete individual steps of varying magnitude at a same time and the first and second lenses ensure a sharp image at all time during the movement required to reach the desired reference point. Since the cited references fail to teach or suggest that the first and second lenses reach the desired reference point simultaneously, it is submitted that the claimed invention recites patentable subject matter.

It is further submitted that Kaneda fails to cure the deficiencies of Nagashima. Therefore, Applicants submit that the combination of the cited references fail to teach or suggest the features recited in claims 13 and 25.

Claims 15, 17-21, 23, 26, 28 and 30 are dependent upon claims 13 and 25. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 15, 17-21, 23, 26, 28 and 30 recite patentable subject matter for at least the reasons mentioned above. Accordingly, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of

claims 15, 17-21, 23, 26, 28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

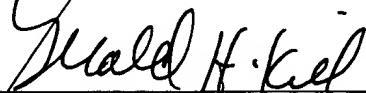
The Examiner rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103 under Admitted prior art in view of Nagashima and Kaneda and further in view of Pensel (US Patent No. 5,867,308). Applicants submits that since claim 22 is dependent upon claim 13, claim 22 recites patentable subject matter for at least the reasons mentioned above. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 27 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admission in view of Nagashima et al. and Kaneda as applied to claims 26 and 30 and further in view of Hirasawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,570,236).

Claims 27 and 31 are dependent upon claims 13 and 15. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 27 and 31 recite patentable subject matter for at least the reasons mentioned above. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 27 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its earlier allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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